

City of Sumpter

POST OFFICE BOX 68
SUMPTER, OREGON 97877

541-894-2314

Email-cityofsumpteror@gmail.com

Date: 6/2/23

To: Residents of Sumpter

Re: Fire Prevention

The City of Sumpter exists in an urban/forest interface zone, or putting it simply, the city is in the forest. Therefore, we face the same wildland fire risks associated with forests that most cities do not. Fire prevention and safety must be the city's top priority. If you think it can't happen here, you need only talk with other communities that were impacted by wildland fire. Common sense fire rules must be the first line of defense. Even a small patch of sun-dried grass is a recipe for disaster.

Burning is allowed in the city during certain times of the year and is determined by the Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department. To find out when fires are permitted [or not], a sign is posted outside the Fire Department at City Hall. The fire conditions signs are color coded to highlight the fire risk:

GREEN – ground fires and burn barrels are permitted.

YELLOW – ground fires are NOT permitted, however burn barrels with a screen are allowed. The area around the barrel must be cleared of combustible vegetation and debris.

RED – NO FIRES ARE PERMITTED.

During green and yellow fire conditions, you must be on site of all fires and possess the following: a burn permit issued by the city, a shovel or hoe, and a charged garden hose.

CAMPFIRES: only allowed during GREEN and YELLOW conditions. They must be contained within a pit or fire ring. One exception is a propane campfire with fire screen; they must have instant off capabilities, UL APPROVED and do not burn anything that gives off sparks.

HOMES & LOTS: city ordinance does not allow lots with overgrown weeds and grass, they are considered a nuisance and fire hazard. If any overgrown areas are not cleaned up, the city will do it and charge the landowner for labor. If you need assistance with clearing overgrowth from your property, contact the fire department. Donations are appreciated.

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FIRE PREVENTION: there is a community burn pile, check with the city for dates and times when it is open to receive YARD DEBRIS only: no larger than 3 inches in diameter. Landowners are responsible for the removal of dead trees on their property. Home and building owners are encouraged to post address numbers [on their buildings] and use reflective letters/numbers that are at least three inches tall.

If all of us follow these simple fire safety measures, the chances of a devastating fire are greatly reduced. We hope you join us in this important effort!

Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department